

Application No. 10/019,624
Amendment and Response dated October 13, 2005
Reply to Office Action mailed July 29, 2005

REMARKS

In the Office Action, claims 1, 2, 11-15 and 20-22 were rejected and claims 3-10 were objected to. By this paper, claim 1 has been amended, claims 20-22 have been cancelled without prejudice, and claims 23-24 have been added. Applicant submits that the claim amendment and newly added claims do not add new matter and entry thereof is respectfully requested. As a result, claims 1-15 and 23-24 are pending and should be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the above-identified claims is now respectfully requested.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

In the Office Action, claims 1-2, 20-22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by GB Patent No. 2,326,082 to Giles (the "Giles patent").

Giles fails to anticipate the limitations recited with respect to claim 1. In particular, Giles fails to disclose the limitation of a handle assembly rotating relative to the pin in the plane of the pin to move the first locking mechanism between the locked and unlocked positions, as recited in claim 1. Rather, as discussed in Giles on page 10, line 26 to page 11, line 14, Giles discloses a handle (80) that rotates about the pivot axis (64), as shown by the arrow labeled with the numeral (82)(see Figure 1). Further, as is clear from the Figures of Giles, handle (80) does not rotate in the plane of pin (82)(see Figures 2-3).

Additionally, Giles fails to disclose a hose coupling being configured to have unlimited rotational movement about the first axis, as defined in claim 1, when the hose is coupled to the hose coupling and the first locking mechanism is in the unlocked position, as articulated in claim 1. On the other hand, Giles discloses on page 10, lines 21-24, limited rotational movement about the pivot axis (64) due to annular slot (52) extending about $\pm 45^\circ$ of a central position, thus restricting the rotational movement. Further, Giles discloses on page 11, lines 16-25, pin (82)

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seated in the plain bore (78), which pin (82) defines a second degree of rotational freedom about a full 360 ° of the mounting member (10), as shown by the arrow indicated with numeral (83). However, as is clear from the figures, pin (82) is perpendicular to pivot axis (64).

As such, claim 1 is not anticipated by Giles. Claims 2-10 depend from allowable base claim 1, thus incorporating all the limitations of claim 1 therein. As such, claims 1-10 should be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and removal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102 to claims 1-10 are hereby requested.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

In the Office Action, claims 11-15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being obvious in light of U.S. Patent No. 3,603,539 to Clegg, Jr. (the "Clegg patent") and U.S. Patent No. 3,856,245 to Byerly (the "Byerly patent").

Claims 11-15 depend from allowable base claim 1, and thus incorporate the limitations recited therein. As such, reconsideration and allowance of claims 11-15 are requested.

New Claims

By this paper, claims 23 and 24 have been added. Like claim 1, new claims 23 and 24 are allowable over the references of record because such references fail to disclose, teach or suggest each and every limitation recited respectively therein.

The references of record fail to disclose, teach or suggest a first locking mechanism comprising a handle assembly and a pin having a first axis, wherein the first locking mechanism is in the unlocked position when the handle assembly is parallel to the first axis, and the locked position when the first handle assembly is rotated to lie perpendicular to the first axis, as recited in claim 23. Additionally, the references of record fail to disclose, teach or suggest a hose

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coupling being configured to have unlimited rotational movement about the first axis, as defined in claim 23, when the first locking mechanism is in the unlocked position, as articulated in claim 23.

Likewise, the references of record fail to disclose, teach or suggest a first locking mechanism comprising a first handle assembly, a first connection means, and a first pin having a first axis, and a second locking mechanism comprising a second handle assembly, a second connection means, and a second pin having a second axis perpendicular to the first axis, wherein the first and second locking mechanisms are in the unlocked position when their respective handle assemblies are parallel to the first and second axes respectively, and the locked positions when their respective handle assemblies are rotated to lie substantially perpendicular to the first and second axes respectively, as recited in claim 24. Further, the references of record fail to disclose, teach or suggest a hose coupling being configured to have unlimited rotational movement about the first axis when the first locking mechanism is in the unlocked position, and unlimited rotational movement about the second axis when the second locking mechanism is in the unlocked position, as articulated in claim 24.

Therefore, newly added claims 23 and 24 should be in condition for allowance. Consideration and allowance of newly added claims 23 and 24 is hereby requested.

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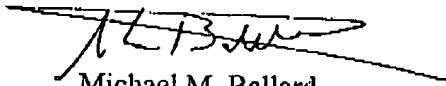
Conclusion

Claims 1-15 and 23-24 are pending and should be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance of the above-identified claims is now respectfully requested.

In the event that the Examiner finds remaining impediment to a prompt allowance of this application that may be clarified through a telephone interview, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned attorney.

Dated this 13 day of October 2005.

Respectfully submitted,



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